

REMARKS/ ARGUMENTS

Claim 21 was objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claims 11 to 13 and 16 to 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Etchell et al., US 4,313,378 A. Claims 11 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fermi et al., US 4,191,106. Claims 11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Albright, US 3,791,295.

Claims 11 to 19 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 20 and 21 have been amended. Claims 22 to 42 have been added. Support for claims 22 to 42 is found in the original claims and in the specification at paragraphs [0033] to [0037], for example.

Reconsideration of the application based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Objection under 37 CFR 1.75(c)

Claim 21 was objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claim 21 depended upon claim 10, which has been canceled.

Claim 21 has been amended to depend upon new claim 22.

Withdrawal of the objection under 37 CFR 1.75(c) is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 11 to 13 and 16 to 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Etchell et al., US 4,313,378 A. Claims 11 to 13 and 16 to 19 have been canceled and new claim 22 now includes limitations similar to the limitations of claim 11. Claims 20 and 21 have been amended to depend on new claim 22.

Etchell et al. discloses a "no-lock" printing plate assembly including a plate cylinder having a smooth plate-supporting surface interrupted by an axial groove defining leading and trailing edges, at least the leading edge having a flat undercut end face with a register pin anchored therein. (abstract). The plate is formed of a thin sheet of resilient material having a smooth undersurface and which is bent over adjacent its ends to define leading and trailing edge portions having respective longitudinal notches, the bend adjacent the leading edge making an acute angle and the bend adjacent the trailing edge making a wide obtuse angle. (abstract).

Claim 22 recites a printing cylinder apparatus comprising:

a cylinder including at least one lever element;

a sleeve-like cover for the cylinder including material having a slit running parallel to an axis of rotation of the cover and at least one recess in an inner circumferential surface of the cover, the at least one lever element being engageable in the at least one recess in order to produce a tangential tension of the sleeve-like cover when the cover is fitted to the cylinder, the at least one lever element being adapted in such a way that the slit becomes narrower when the at least one lever element produces the tension;

at least one retaining element, edges of a printing form being fixable in the slit via the at least one retaining force element;

wherein the cover is adapted to hold a plate-like printing form.

It is respectfully submitted that Etchell et al. does not disclose “the at least one lever element being engageable in the at least one recess in order to produce a tangential tension of the sleeve-like cover when the cover is fitted to the cylinder, the at least one lever element being adapted in such a way that the slit becomes narrower when the at least one lever element produces the tension” as recited in claim 22. Hooks 54 disclosed in Etchell et al. do not impart a tangential tension on saddles 51, 52 as hooks cooperate with inclined surfaces of pockets 55. Also, axial groove 20 is not narrowed by engagement of hooks 54, as the size of G of groove 20 needs to be substantially larger than twice the thickness of the plate and particularly larger than five times the thickness of the plate. (Col. 3, Lines 50 to 55; Col. 4, Lines 4 to 8).

Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 22 and its dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fermi et al., US 4,191,106. Claims 11 and 15 have been canceled and new claim 22 now includes limitations similar to the limitations of claim 11.

Fermi et al. discloses a printing plate clamping assembly. A trailing edge 9 of a printing plate 6 is clamped by edge portions 10 of lock bar 11 of the clamping assembly 3. (Col. 7, Lines 37 to 39). To accommodate registration an alignment of a leading edge 7 of a printing plate 6, registration and retaining spring clips 25 are provided. (Col. 9, Lines 1 to 3). Each spring clip 25 also includes protruding bulge portions 28, 28', for aligning engagement with an opening or openings 29 on the leading edge 7 of the flexible printing plate 6. (Col. 9, Lines 7 to 11). When

raised or bulge portion 28 is aligningly engaged in opening 29 of the flexible printing plate 6, the oppositely arranged bulge portion 28' is engaged against the smooth planar surface 30' of the respective opposite edge portion 8' of the shim member 2. (Col. 9, Lines 11 to 16).

Claim 22 recites a printing cylinder apparatus comprising:

a cylinder including at least one lever element;

a sleeve-like cover for the cylinder including material having a slit running parallel to an axis of rotation of the cover and at least one recess in an inner circumferential surface of the cover, the at least one lever element being engageable in the at least one recess in order to produce a tangential tension of the sleeve-like cover when the cover is fitted to the cylinder, the at least one lever element being adapted in such a way that the slit becomes narrower when the at least one lever element produces the tension;

at least one retaining element, edges of a printing form being fixable in the slit via the at least one retaining force element;

wherein the cover is adapted to hold a plate-like printing form.

It is respectfully submitted that Fermi et al. does not disclose "a cylinder including at least one lever element...the at least one lever element being engageable in the at least one recess in order to produce a tangential tension of the sleeve-like cover when the cover is fitted to the cylinder, the at least one lever element being adapted in such a way that the slit becomes narrower when the at least one lever element produces the tension," as recited in claim 22. Shim member 2 of Fermi et al. is attached to press cylinder 1 by threaded bolts. (Col. 7, Lines 8 to 10). There is no indication that press cylinder 1 includes a lever that is engageable in at least one recess of shim member 2. Also, shim member 2 would appear to interfere with clamping assembly 3 if the gap of Fermi et al. was narrowed.

Withdrawal of rejection to claim 22 and its dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Albright, US 3,791,295. Claims 11 and 14 have been canceled and new claim 22 now includes limitations similar to the limitations of claim 11.

Albright discloses a semi-cylindrical adapter shell or "saddle," around which is bent a thin arcuate metal or plastic printing plate, and bolted in pairs to the cylinders of newspaper printing presses to replace the now obsolescent stereotypes, has transversely spaced pins on its

opposite ends projecting through holes in the inwardly bent ends or flaps of the printing plate.
(abstract).

a cylinder including at least one lever element;

a sleeve-like cover for the cylinder including material having a slit running parallel to an axis of rotation of the cover and at least one recess in an inner circumferential surface of the cover, the at least one lever element being engageable in the at least one recess in order to produce a tangential tension of the sleeve-like cover when the cover is fitted to the cylinder, the at least one lever element being adapted in such a way that the slit becomes narrower when the at least one lever element produces the tension;

at least one retaining element, edges of a printing form being fixable in the slit via the at least one retaining force element;

wherein the cover is adapted to hold a plate-like printing form.

It is respectfully submitted that Fermi et al. does not disclose “a cylinder including at least one lever element...the at least one lever element being engageable in the at least one recess in order to produce a tangential tension of the sleeve-like cover when the cover is fitted to the cylinder, the at least one lever element being adapted in such a way that the slit becomes narrower when the at least one lever element produces the tension,” as recited in claim 22. Saddle 18 of Albright is bolted or otherwise secured to press cylinder 14. (Col. 2, Lines 28 to 30). There is no indication that press cylinder 14 includes a lever that is engageable in at least one recess of saddle 18.

Withdrawal of rejection to claim 22 and its dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is respectfully requested.

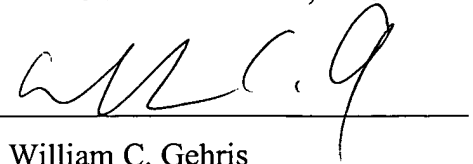
CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W.C. Gehris', is written over a horizontal line.

William C. Gehris

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